

**Abstract**

A node for use in a WDM optical network, the node comprising a tributary receiver unit for receiving a data signal distributed via the WDM optical network and destined for said node, a path protection switching unit for switching receipt of said data signal at the tributary receiver unit from a working path to a protection path of the WDM optical network, and a control unit for the path protection unit, wherein the control unit comprises a multi rate clock data recovery (CDR) device arranged, in use, to detect a loss of lock (LOL) in the data signal received at the tributary receiver unit based on a comparison of an actual data rate received and a pre-programmed reference rate for said data signal.

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